

him earnestly, saying, He is worthy that thou shouldst do this for him :

5 For he loveth our nation, and himself built us our synagog.

6 And Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself : for I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof :

7 Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee : but say the word, and my servant shall be healed.

8 For I also am a man set under authority, having under myself soldiers, and I say to this one, Go, and he goeth ; and to another, Come, and he cometh ; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

9 And when Jesus heard these things, he marvelled at him, and turned and said unto the multitude that followed him, I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

10 And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole.

Lesson Links

According to all the harmonies this lesson comes just after the Sermon on the Mount.

Jesus had just spoken the wonderful words of that sermon. The people had wondered. Now they followed him as he went toward Capernaum.

The Lesson Story

Jesus entered Capernaum which was now his home city, with a multitude of people around him. As he went up the street talking with the people, he was met by the elders of the Jews in that city. They told him that a servant of the Roman centurion of the soldiers stationed there, was very sick. They begged Jesus to come and heal the servant. They gave as a reason why Jesus should do this, that this Roman captain was "worthy" because he had built them a synagog.

This Roman Centurion

Must have been a man of large soul. Of course, he was a heathen by birth, yet he had been attracted by the pure religion of the Jews, like many other heathens, and revered their God. For, tho the Jews were proud and selfish, their conception of God in most points was vastly better than the conception of the other nations.

Another thing that shows that this Roman officer was not an ordinary man was the way he thought of his slave, "he was dear to him." And, another quality which appealed to the Savior, was his humility, "I am not worthy that thou (a Jew) shouldst come under my roof." For a Jew to enter the dwelling of a Gentile was to be defiled.

Christ Went

With them. Whether he went, because these Jews said the centurion was worthy, or because he desired to see that centurion who loved the Jews, for most Gentiles hated them, we are unable to say. Perhaps two facts which these Jews stated concerning the officer excited Christ's interest, 1, that he loved his slave ; 2, that he loved the Jews. At any rate he went with them.

The Centurion's Unworthiness

When they approached the house, the centurion sent word by other friends that Jesus should not trouble himself by coming to the

house, that he himself was not worthy, being only a heathen, that Jesus should come under his roof. His opinion of himself was far different from that of his Jewish friends. He was "poor in spirit." He also sent word that he hadn't considered himself worthy to come himself, but had sent the Jews. What marvelous humility ! And it was a real humility, not assumed. And his great faith was shown by his message, "but say the word and my servant shall be healed."

"For," the message continued, "I am a man under the authority of others and have men under my authority. I obey those over me and those under me, obey my command. You have authority not only over a few as I have, but have all power in heaven and on earth. I know you have power over disease from the number of cures you have performed. Hence, I know by a word you by your authority can heal my servant whether you are present or not."

Effect of the Message

1. On Jesus. "I say unto you," said Jesus to the multitude which followed, "I have not found so great faith, no not even in Israel, where I have a right to expect it." This was a faith that required no presence of the healer in order to believe that he could heal. It required no touch. It knew the word of authority had power.

2. On the servant. "And they that were sent, returning to the house with Christ's assurance that such a faith would receive its answer, found the servant whole."

In This Lesson We Have

1. A busy Savior.
2. A centurion who loved his slave. Love on the part of employer and employed will solve our labor problem.
3. A slave who reciprocates his master's love.
4. Someone telling a needy man of the Healer and Savior.
5. A Gentile who had won the love of Jesus. A man who had overcome distinctions of class.
6. Friends who helped in a time of need.
7. Becoming humility in a man who had worldly position.
8. Faith in a heathen heart.

Lesson Applied

1. Lazy Christians, i. e., those who are not trying to bless their fellow-men are not followers of Christ.
2. The qualities which make a man an ideal Christian are sometimes found in those of whom we least expect it. Seek out such.
3. The one to seek when we are in need is Jesus the Healer and Savior.
4. Love begets love. Try it.
5. True humility opens the door for Christ's entrance. Christ can't bless a man who thinks he is worthy of all that he can give him.
6. Faith is believing whether one can see or not.
7. If you are really honest with the truth you know God will show you more truth.

J. L. GILLIN.

Church News

Kanemorado Echoes

At this writing we are enjoying the hospitality of brother C. Forney and family. Have been engaged in a meeting for ten days in the Beaver church of the brethren in Furnas county, Neb. Brother Forney has spent quite a number of years in the labors of the ministry in this part of the state and has made for himself many very warm friends. Like many others who were pioneers in the Brethren cause in the west, he has made much sacrifice and at present feels it materially, yet he is earnest and zealous in the cause of his Master.

This congregation is divided between Beaver City, the countyseat of Furnas Co., and the county around the church. Their church property has recently been very much improved by the earnest labors of the Sisters Aid Society, which seems to be in a very flourishing condition. For several months they have sought a pastor for them, in vain. G. J. Walters had contracted with them to assume pastoral duties April 1st, but circumstances looking toward the bettering of his condition, dictated that he remain in Kansas with his former charge, Portis, Osborn county.

At a business meeting held with this church, March 29, an arrangement was made to continue Brother Forney's labor's as pastor for remainder of conference year. This church is located in Beaver Valley, a beautiful section of country, and famous for its productiveness of alfalfa. Lands are very reasonable in price and certainly inviting to Brethren with limited holidays in the east, who might desire to better their conditions temporally, and at the same time secure to themselves and families church and Sabbath-school privileges. Such are cordially invited to come and see for themselves.

The attendance most of the time was small but very attentive. Reasons given for the small attendance : the very busy season, spring crops, wheat, oats, barley, alfalfa, etc., were receiving the attention of all. Possibly another might be given : the lack of drawing qualities in the preacher. The sensational, which with the popular evangelist is the drawing factor, was studiously omitted and the plain old time Gospel of Christ presented. One precious soul made the good confession and was duly added to the little vine, a very exemplary young man, and we believe others were counting the cost. Our prayer is that ere long they may surrender themselves to Christ and become workers in the Master's vineyard. The mission work was duly presented and received some attention. A small contribution was received for Washington church and will appear in the report of the evangelist.

As chairman of the Mission Board I must urge a little more activity on the part of the district or the work may cease. Have received some very discouraging responses from notes of inquiry among the churches.